



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/704,507	11/07/2003	Mark Dennis Norton	555255012622	4072
30973	7590	01/18/2006		
SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P. 5956 SHERRY LANE SUITE 1400 DALLAS, TX 75225			EXAMINER CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY	
			ART UNIT 2686	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/704,507	Applicant(s) NORTON ET AL	
	Examiner Joy K. Contee	Art Unit 2686	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/7/03 & 9/27/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vialen et al. (Vialen), U.S. Patent No. 6,826,406.

Regarding claim 1, Vialen discloses a method of processing a message received at a user equipment in a UMTS communications system, wherein the message includes a Ciphering Mode Info information element and is one of a plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a UTRAN Mobility Information message, the method comprising: determining whether a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is present in the message when radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); and in the event that the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is not present, returning a message indicating the absence

of the information element (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 2, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the step of returning a message indicating the absence of the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element comprises returning a message including the value INVALID_CONFIGURATION (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 3, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the step of returning a message indicating the absence of the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element comprises returning a message including the value UNSUPPORTED_CONFIGURATION (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 4, Vialen discloses a method of preparing a message for transmission to a user equipment in a UMTS communications system, the message including a Ciphering Mode Info information element, the method comprising determining whether radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); and if they do exist, determining whether the message is one of a plurality of message types for which a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is to be included, the plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a

Art Unit: 2686

UTRAN Mobility Information message; and in the event the message is one of said plurality of message types, including the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element in the message (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 5, Vialen discloses a method of processing a message received at a user equipment (UE) from a UTRAN in a UMTS communications system, wherein the message includes a Ciphering Mode Info information element and is one of a plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a UTRAN Mobility Information message, the method comprising: determining whether a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is present in the message when radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); and in the event that the information element is not present, selecting an activation time for applying ciphering changes for the transparent mode radio bearers (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 6, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 5, wherein the step of selecting the activation time for applying ciphering changes comprises using a message activation time received from the UTRAN (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 7, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 6, wherein the message activation time is included in the Activation Time information element (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 8, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 7, comprising, in the absence of the Activation Time information element, using an activation time of NOW (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 9, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 5, wherein the step of selecting an activation time comprises selecting an activation time at the UE independently of the UTRAN and sending a response message including the selected activation time to the UTRAN(col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 10, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 9, comprising returning the selected activation time using the COUNT-C Activation Time information element (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 11, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 9, further comprising using the selected activation time at the UE as the time for applying ciphering changes for transparent mode radio bearers (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 12, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 11, further comprising receiving the selected activation time at the UTRAN and using the received activation time as the time for applying ciphering changes for transparent mode radio bearers (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 13, Vialen discloses a method according to claim 5, comprising selecting an activation time of NOW to immediately apply ciphering changes for transparent mode radio bearers (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 14, Vialen discloses user equipment for receiving a message in a UMTS communications system, wherein the message includes a Ciphering Mode Info information element and is one of a plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a UTRAN Mobility Information message, the user equipment comprising: a control module configured to determine whether a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is present in the message when radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); and a transmitter for returning a message indicating the absence of the information element, in the event that the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is not present (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Regarding claim 15, Vialen discloses A UTRAN for transmitting a message to a user equipment in a UMTS communications system, the message including a Ciphering Mode Info information element, the UTRAN comprising: a control module for determining whether radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); the control module further being configured to determine, in the event that said radio bearers exist, whether the message is one of a plurality of message types for which a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is to be included, the plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a UTRAN Mobility Information message; and the control module being configured to include the Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element in the message in the event that the message is one of said plurality of message types (col. 5, lines 32-50 and col. 6, lines 1-10 and col. 7, lines 14-50 and col. 9, line 30 to col. 10, line 34).

Regarding claim 16, Vialen discloses user equipment (UE) for receiving a message from a UTRAN in a UMTS communications system, wherein the message includes a Ciphering Mode Info information element and is one of a plurality of message types comprising a Radio Bearer Setup message, a Radio Bearer Reconfiguration message, a Radio Bearer Release message, a Transport Channel Reconfiguration message, a Physical Channel Reconfiguration message, a Cell Update Confirm message, a URA Update Confirm message and a UTRAN Mobility Information

Art Unit: 2686

message, the user equipment comprising: a control module for determining whether a Ciphering Activation Time for DPCH information element is present in the message when radio bearers exist using radio link control (RLC) transparent mode (TM); the control module being configured to select an activation time for applying ciphering changes for the transparent mode radio bearers, in the event that the information element is not present (col. 5,lines 32-50 and col. 6,lines 1-10 and col. 7,lines 14-50 and col. 9,line 30 to col. 10,line 34).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Kuo discloses a method for determining RLC entity re-establishment during SRNS relocation.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K Contee whose telephone number is 571.272.7906. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on 571.272.7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2686

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JOY K. CONTEE
PATENT EXAMINER

JC